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Tavlarides, Mark Fri 2/4/2022 3:58 PM Good Afternoon,

BGR Group Represents the Kingdom of Bahrain. As you may be aware, yesterday, February 3, Israel and Bahrain <u>signed</u> a historic memorandum of understanding on security cooperation – the first security agreement between Israel and any Gulf nation.

Israel Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who visited Bahrain to sign the agreement, <u>described</u> the agreement as "a new high point" in the countries' relationship, following Bahrain's historic participation in the 2020 Abraham Accords. Since the Accords, Bahrain and Israel have deepened their relationship significantly, exchanging Ambassadors, inaugurating Embassies, operating commercial flights, and more. The new agreement is designed to advance intelligence collaboration, create a framework for military exercises, and to strengthen ties between the two countries' defense industries.

This new security agreement between Bahrain and Israel comes as both countries deepen their engagement with the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, which is based in Iran, to deepen regional security cooperation and build regional resilience against Iran's malicious actions.

Gantz's visit to Bahrain and the signing of this security agreement comes as Iran's malfeasant actions in the region increase, with Iranian naval actions and their proliferation of drone technology increasing risks for all regional actors.

We ask that your boss releases a statement on Twitter or in the Congressional Record highlighting the historic nature of this security agreement, which will result in a more cooperative, more stable, and ultimately more peaceful Middle East.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or would like to engage with the Embassy further about their commitment to a cooperative and peaceful region and their deepening relationship with Israel.

All my best,

Mark

Mark J. Tavlarides

Principal, International

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